

Amendments to the Claims

Please replace the claims as filed with the claims set forth below. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1 1. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a telecommunication provider and
2 a plurality of subscribers, an alert distribution device for determining an appropriate set of
3 addresses to which to distribute an alert, the device comprising:
4 at least one interface member in communication with a communication network;
5 a processor in communication with the at least one interface member; and
6 a storage medium in communication with the processor, the storage medium
7 comprising instructions executable by the processor to:
8 maintain a directory of alert gateways, the directory comprising a plurality
9 of directory entries, each directory entry being associated with a particular
10 alert gateway and comprising at least one gateway characteristic associated
11 with that alert gateway, the gateway characteristic including information to
12 enable the alert distribution device to determine whether a given alert should
13 be transmitted to the alert gateway;
14 maintain a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways,
15 the distribution address for a particular alert gateway providing sufficient
16 identifying information about that alert gateway to allow an alert to be
17 transmitted to the alert gateway;
18 associate the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert
19 gateway with the distribution address for that particular alert gateway;
20 receive an alert via the at least one interface member, the alert being
21 configured to describe an event and having associated information about the
22 alert comprising event information characterizing the event, wherein said
23 event information includes at least one of information related to an event
24 category under which the event falls and information related to specific details
25 about the event;

26 identify, based on the information about the alert, a set of selection criteria
27 for determining which of the plurality of alert gateways should receive the
28 alert;

29 search the directory for at least one directory entry comprising a gateway
30 characteristic corresponding to the identified selection criteria;

31 identify, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address that
32 should receive the alert, each member of the set of distribution addresses
33 being associated with a directory entry comprising a gateway characteristic
34 that corresponds to the identified selection criteria; and

35 format the alert into a message for the alert gateways to process for receipt
36 by two or more subscribers with two or more types of subscriber equipment;

37 wherein the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of
38 subscriber equipment, and is configured to analyze the event information and
39 to determine to which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to
40 provide the alert as a function of analyzing the event information.

1 2. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one gateway
2 characteristic associated with each of the alert gateways comprises information about the
3 geographic location of the alert gateway.

1 3. (Original) The device of claim 2, wherein the information about the alert
2 comprises geographic information about a geographic area to which the alert pertains, such that
3 subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested in receiving
4 the alert.

1 4. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the directory entry for each alert
2 gateway comprises information about a distribution address for that alert gateway, and wherein
3 maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways comprises
4 maintaining the information about the distribution address.

1 5. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the storage medium comprises a
2 first database, the first database comprising the directory of alert gateways.

1 6. (Original) The device of claim 5, wherein storage medium comprises a
2 second database, the second database comprising the distribution addresses associated with each
3 of the alert gateways.

1 7. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the at least one gateway
2 characteristic associated with an alert gateway comprises information selected from the group
3 consisting of the area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in which the alert
4 gateway is located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway, the Global
5 Positioning System coordinates of the alert gateway, demographic information about a subscriber
6 associated with the alert gateway, and information about subscriber preferences held by a
7 subscriber associated with the alert gateway.

1 8. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the alert comprises urgent
2 public information.

1 9. (Original) The device of claim 8, wherein the urgent public information is
2 selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an Amber Alert, a
3 severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification.

1 10. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the information about the alert
2 is incorporated within the alert.

1 11. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the alert information about the
2 alert is additional to the alert.

1 12. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the storage medium comprises
2 further instructions executable by the processor to extract from the alert the information about
3 the alert.

1 13. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the communication network is
2 selected from a group consisting of a radio-frequency transmission, a telephone network, a cable
3 television distribution network, the Internet, a fiber-optic network, a high-speed data network, a
4 wireless network, and a microwave network.

1 14. (Original) The device of claim 1, wherein the communication network is a
2 plurality of communication networks and wherein, for a particular distribution address, the
3 device is configured to select the most appropriate communication network via which to transmit
4 the alert information to the particular distribution address.

1 15. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a telecommunication
2 provider and a plurality of subscribers, a method for determining an appropriate set of addresses
3 to which to distribute an alert, the method comprising:

4 maintaining a directory of alert gateways, the directory comprising a plurality of
5 directory entries, each directory entry being associated with a particular alert gateway
6 and comprising at least one gateway characteristic associated with that alert gateway,
7 the gateway characteristic including information to enable the alert distribution device
8 to determine whether a given alert should be transmitted to the alert gateway;

9 maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways, the
10 distribution address for a particular alert gateway providing sufficient identifying
11 information about that alert gateway to allow an alert to be transmitted to the alert
12 gateway;

13 associating the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert gateway with the
14 distribution address for that particular alert gateway;

15 receiving an alert, the alert being configured to describe an event and having associated

16 information about the alert comprising event information characterizing the event,
17 wherein said event information includes at least one of information related to an event
18 category under which the event falls and information related to specific details about
19 the event;

20 identifying, based on the information about the alert, a set of selection criteria for
21 determining which of the plurality of alert gateways should receive the alert;

22 searching the directory for at least one directory entry comprising a gateway
23 characteristic corresponding to the identified selection criteria;

24 identifying, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address that should
25 receive the alert, each member of the set of distribution addresses being associated

26 with a directory entry comprising a gateway characteristic that corresponds to the
27 identified selection criteria; and
28 formatting the alert into a message for the alert gateways to process for receipt by two or
29 more subscribers with two or more types of subscriber equipment;
30 wherein the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of subscriber
31 equipment, and is configured to analyze the event information and to determine to
32 which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a
33 function of analyzing the event information.

1 16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic
2 associated with each of the alert gateways comprises information about the geographic location
3 of the alert gateway.

1 17. (Original) The method of claim 16, wherein the information about the alert
2 comprises geographic information about a geographic area to which the alert pertains, such that
3 subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested in receiving
4 the alert.

1 18. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the directory entry for each alert
2 gateway comprises information about a distribution address for that alert gateway, and wherein
3 maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways comprises
4 maintaining the information about the distribution address.

1 19. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the directory of alert gateways
2 comprises a first database.

1 20. (Original) The method of claim 19, wherein the distribution address associated
2 with each of the alert gateways are maintained in a second database.

1 21. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic
2 associated with an alert gateway comprises information selected from the group consisting of the
3 area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in which the alert gateway is
4 located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway, the Global Positioning
5 System coordinates of the alert gateway, demographic information about a subscriber associated

6 with the alert gateway, and information about subscriber preferences held by a subscriber
7 associated with the alert gateway.

1 22. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the alert comprises urgent public
2 information.

1 23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the urgent public
2 information is selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an
3 Amber Alert, a severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification.

1 24. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the information about the alert is
2 incorporated within the alert.

1 25. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the alert information about the alert is
2 additional to the alert.

1 26. (Original) The method of claim 15, further comprising extracting from the alert
2 the information about the alert.

1 27. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a telecommunication provider and
2 a plurality of subscribers, a system for distributing an alert to an appropriate set of subscribers,
3 the system comprising:

4 a plurality of alert gateways configured to receive an alert, each of the plurality of alert
5 gateways being associated with at least one subscriber;

6 a communication network in communication with the plurality of alert gateways; and
7 an alert distribution device in communication with the communication network, the alert
8 distribution device comprising:

9 at least one interface member in communication with the network;

10 a processor in communication with the at least one interface member; and

11 a storage medium in communication with the processor, the storage medium comprising
12 instructions executable by the processor to:

13 maintain a directory of alert gateways, the directory comprising a plurality of directory

14 entries, each directory entry being associated with a particular alert gateway and

15 comprising at least one gateway characteristic associated with that alert gateway, the

gateway characteristic including information to enable the alert distribution device to determine whether a given alert should be transmitted to the alert gateway; maintain a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways, the distribution address for a particular alert gateway providing sufficient identifying information about that alert gateway to allow an alert to be transmitted to the alert gateway; associate the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert gateway with the distribution address for that particular alert gateway; receive an alert via the at least one interface member, the alert being configured to describe an event and having associated information about the alert comprising event information characterizing the event, wherein said event information includes at least one of information related to an event category under which the event falls and information related to specific details about the event; identify, based on the information about the alert, a set of selection criteria for determining which of the plurality of alert gateways should receive the alert; search the directory for at least one directory entry comprising a gateway characteristic corresponding to the identified selection criteria; identify, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address that should receive the alert, each member of the set of distribution addresses being associated with a directory entry comprising a gateway characteristic that corresponds to the identified selection criteria; format the alert into a message for the alert gateways to process for receipt by two or more subscribers with two or more types of subscriber equipment; and using the at least one interface member, transmit the alert via the network to a set of alert gateways, each member of the set of alert gateways being associated with a member of the set of distribution addresses; wherein the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of subscriber equipment, and is configured to analyze the event information and to determine to which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a function of analyzing the event information.

1 28. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic
2 associated with each of the alert gateways comprises information about the geographic location
3 of the alert gateway.

1 29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the information about the alert
2 comprises geographic information about a geographic area to which the alert pertains, such that
3 subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested in receiving
4 the alert.

1 30. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the directory entry for each alert
2 gateway comprises information about a distribution address for that alert gateway, and wherein
3 maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways comprises
4 maintaining the information about the distribution address.

1 31. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the storage medium comprises a first
2 database, the first database comprising the directory of alert gateways.

1 32. (Original) The system of claim 31, wherein the storage medium comprises a
2 second database, the second database comprising the distribution addresses associated with each
3 of the alert gateways.

1 33. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the at least one gateway characteristic
2 associated with an alert gateway comprises information selected from the group consisting of the
3 area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in which the alert gateway is
4 located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway, the Global Positioning
5 System coordinates of the alert gateway, demographic information about a subscriber associated
6 with the alert gateway, and information about subscriber preferences held by a subscriber
7 associated with the alert gateway.

1 34. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert
2 gateways is incorporated within a network interface device.

1 35. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert
2 gateways is in communication with a demarcation device.

1 36. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the alert comprises urgent public
2 information.

1 37. (Original) The system of claim 36, wherein the urgent public information is
2 selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an Amber Alert, a
3 severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification.

1 38. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the information about the alert is
2 incorporated within the alert.

1 39. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the alert information about the alert is
2 additional to the alert.

1 40. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the storage medium comprises further
2 instructions executable by the processor to extract from the alert the information about the alert.

1 41. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the communication network is
2 selected from a group consisting of a radio-frequency transmission, a telephone network, a cable
3 television distribution network, the Internet, a fiber-optic network, a high-speed data network, a
4 wireless network, and a microwave network.

1 42. (Original) The system of claim 27, wherein the communication network is a
2 plurality of communication networks and wherein, for a particular distribution address, the alert
3 distribution device is configured to select the most appropriate communication network via
4 which to transmit the alert information to the particular distribution address.

1 43. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a telecommunication provider and
2 a plurality of subscribers, a system for distributing an alert to an appropriate set of subscribers,
3 the system comprising:

4 a plurality of alert gateways configured to receive an alert, each of the plurality of alert
5 gateways having a geographic location, and each of the plurality of alert gateways
6 being associated with at least one subscriber;

7 a network configured to provide communication with the plurality of alert gateways; and
8 an alert distribution device comprising:

9 at least one interface member in communication with the network;
10 a processor in communication with the at least one interface member; and
11 a storage medium in communication with the processor, the storage medium comprising
12 instructions executable by the processor to:
13 maintain a database of alert gateways, the database comprising a plurality of database
14 records, each database record being associated with an alert gateway and comprising
15 location information about the geographic location of that alert gateway;
16 maintain a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways, the distribution
17 address for an alert gateway providing sufficient identifying information about that
18 alert gateway to allow an alert to be transmitted to the alert gateway;
19 associate the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert gateway with the
20 distribution address for that particular alert gateway;
21 receive an alert via the at least one interface member, the alert being configured to
22 describe an event and comprising event information characterizing the event
23 including information about a geographic area to which the event pertains, such that
24 subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested
25 in receiving the alert, wherein said event information further includes at least one of
26 information related to an event category under which the event falls and information
27 related to specific details about the event;
28 identify, based on the information about the geographic area to which the alert pertains, a
29 set of geographic criteria for determining which of the plurality of alert gateways
30 should receive the alert;
31 search the database for at least one directory entry comprising location information
32 meeting the set of geographic criteria;
33 identify, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address that should receive
34 the alert, each of the set of distribution addresses associated with a directory entry
35 comprising location information meeting the set of geographic criteria;
36 using the at least one interface member, transmit the alert via the network to a set of alert
37 gateways, each member of the set of alert gateways being associated with a member
38 of the set of distribution addresses; and

39 format the alert into a message for the alert gateways to process for receipt by two or
40 more subscribers with two or more types of subscriber equipment;
41 wherein the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of subscriber
42 equipment, and is configured to analyze the event information and to determine to
43 which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a
44 function of analyzing the event information.

1 44. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert
2 gateways is incorporated within a network interface device.

1 45. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein at least one of the plurality of alert
2 gateways is in communication with a network interface device.

1 46. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein the alert comprises urgent public
2 information.

1 47. (Original) The system of claim 46, wherein the urgent public information is
2 selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an Amber Alert, a
3 severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification.

1 48. (Original) The system of claim 43, wherein the location information is selected
2 from the group consisting of the area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in
3 which the alert gateway is located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway,
4 and the Global Positioning System coordinates of the alert gateway.

1 49. (Currently Amended) In a relationship between a telecommunication provider and
2 a plurality of subscribers, a method for distributing an alert to an appropriate set of subscribers,
3 the method comprising:

4 maintaining a database of alert gateways, the database comprising a plurality of database
5 records, each database record being associated with an alert gateway and comprising
6 location information about the geographic location of that alert gateway;
7 maintaining a distribution address associated with each of the alert gateways, the
8 distribution address for an alert gateway providing sufficient identifying information
9 about that alert gateway to allow an alert to be transmitted to the alert gateway;

10 associating the at least one gateway characteristic for a particular alert gateway with the
11 distribution address for that particular alert gateway;
12 receiving an alert via the at least one interface member, the alert being configured to
13 describe an event and comprising event information characterizing the event, wherein
14 said event information includes at least one of information related to an event
15 category under which the event falls and information related to specific details about
16 the event;
17 including information about a geographic area to which the event pertains, such that
18 subscribers outside the geographic area would be relatively unlikely to be interested
19 in receiving the alert;
20 identifying, based on the information about the geographic area to which the alert
21 pertains, a set of geographic criteria for determining which of the plurality of alert
22 gateways should receive the alert;
23 searching the database for at least one directory entry comprising location information
24 meeting the set of geographic criteria;
25 identifying, based on the search, a set of at least one distribution address that should
26 receive the alert, each member of the set of distribution addresses being associated
27 with a directory entry comprising location information meeting the set of geographic
28 criteria;
29 formatting the alert into a message for the alert gateways to process for receipt by two or
30 more subscribers with two or more types of subscriber equipment; and
31 transmitting the alert to a set of alert gateways, each member of the set of alert gateways
32 being associated with a member of the set of distribution addresses;
33 wherein the alert gateway is in communication with two or more types of subscriber
34 equipment, and is configured to analyze the event information and to determine to
35 which of the two or more types of subscriber equipment to provide the alert as a
36 function of analyzing the event information.

1 50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein at least one of the
2 plurality of alert gateways is incorporated within a network interface device located at a
3 subscriber location.

1 51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 49, wherein at least one of the
2 plurality of alert gateways is in communication with a network interface device located at a
3 subscriber location.

1 52. (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein the location information is selected
2 from the group consisting of the area code in which the alert gateway is located, the ZIP code in
3 which the alert gateway is located, the latitude and longitude coordinates of the alert gateway,
4 and the Global Positioning System coordinates of the alert gateway.

1 53. (Original) The method of claim 49, wherein the alert comprises urgent public
2 information.

1 54. (Original) The method of claim 53, wherein the urgent public information is
2 selected from a group consisting of an Emergency Alert System transmission, an Amber Alert, a
3 severe weather notification, and a Homeland Security Advisory notification.

1 55. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 1, wherein the alert gateway transmits
2 the alert to the subscriber equipment.